<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 2 – 11, 14 – 18, and 35 - 37 are pending. Claims 2, 5 - 11, 14, 16, and 35 - 36 have been amended. Claims 1, 12, 13, and 34 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 3, 17 – 18, and 37 are allowed. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 12, 13, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,365,076 to Itakura. (the Itakura reference). The Examiner allowed claims 3, 17 – 18, and 37. The Examiner objected to claims 2, 4 – 11, 14 – 16, and 35 – 36 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 12, 13, and 34.

Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 5, 7 – 8, 10 – 11, 14, 16, and 35 - 36 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 6, 9, and 15 depend on claims 2, 5, 8, and 14, respectively. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 4 – 11, 14 – 16, and 35 - 36, as amended, are in condition for allowance.
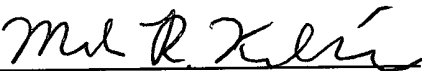
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Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call either of the undersigned attorneys at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.
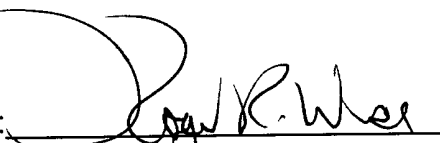
Respectfully submitted,

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